



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Spring Hill Man Calls 9-1-1 to Request His Meth Be Tested for Authenticity

**Date:** March 11, 2022

---

On 03-10-22 at approximately 7 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to 1463 Mariner Boulevard in Spring Hill after a resident in the home called 9-1-1 to request that a deputy be dispatched to "test the methamphetamine" he had recently purchased.

Upon arrival, deputies met with Thomas Eugene Colucci. Colucci told deputies he had recently purchased methamphetamine from a male he met in a local bar, and after having used a bit of it, believed it was actually bath salts. Colucci went on to tell deputies he was an experienced drug user, having used methamphetamine in the past, and "knew what it should feel like." Colucci produced two small baggies, each containing a white crystal-like substance, and handed them over to the deputy.

Evidently, the substance Colucci had recently purchased did not provide the expected sensation, hence the call to 9-1-1.

Colucci told deputies he wanted his methamphetamine tested, as he did not want other people to purchase "fake" methamphetamine from the individual who sold it to him. Colucci wanted deputies to "put the person in trouble" for selling dangerous drugs; however, he was unable to provide a name or any contact info for this individual.

As requested, a deputy performed a field test on a sample of the white crystal-like substance from each of the baggies. The substance from both baggies tested positive for methamphetamine.

Deputies placed Colucci under arrest and in the back of a patrol vehicle. After being placed under arrest, Colucci told the deputies he was having some chest pains. Colucci was then transported to a local hospital where he was medically cleared by a physician.

**Thomas Eugene Colucci DOB/12-21-1980** was delivered to the Hernando County Detention Center and charged as follows:

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (2 counts)
- Bond - \$7,000.

If you, or someone you know, have doubts about the authenticity of any illegal narcotics you have on-hand or have obtained from another person, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office is pleased to provide this service, FREE of charge.

#### *The Office of Sheriff:*

*The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.*

*Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.*